

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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Editorial.

A DISGRACE—A DELUSION.

Sometime ago there was presented to the Legislature of the State of New York, a petition which was at once a disgrace and a delusion. The petition asks the Legislatures to let the people of New York City decide by vote whether saloons shall be open on Sunday or not. Here is the petition: *To the Legislature of the State of New York:* We, the undersigned citizens of the State of New York, respectfully pray that the Legislature pass a law referring to the voters of the cities of the first class, at a special election to be held in such cities in the spring of 1896, the question whether the sale of beverages, milk, and food shall be permitted on Sundays under proper restrictions to be fixed by statute.

THE DISGRACE.

The disgrace is, not that this petition went to the Legislature, nor that it went there containing one hundred and fifteen thousand names in favor of allowing rum shops and beer saloons to be opened on Sunday, but the disgrace is that the petition was wheeled into the Senate Chamber containing the names of three ministers of the Gospel, all three Episcopal clergymen. Dr. W. S. Rainsford, in giving his reason for favoring the petition, said: "We cannot get all the people to church on Sunday by closing saloons. If by the lifting of my finger I could close all the saloons in New York, I would not lift my finger; for we ought not to close the saloons until we provide other places of resort." As though next to the church the saloon was the best institution in the land. Can the Dr. conceive of a worse place than the saloon as a resort? Will the closing of any kind of business on Sunday bring all the people to church? Then why not keep open all kinds of business? Dr. Rylance gave his reason in the following: "Don't let the children grow up believing that Sunday is a day of oppression, else when they are old they will treat religion contemptuously." What logic for an eminent divine! Where do these men learn their logic and where do

they get their religion and theology? Think of a Gospel preacher arguing in favor of open saloons on Sunday so that children may cultivate reverence for religion! Why, the saloon is the breeder of all manner of irreverence for things sacred. Keep open saloons on Sunday else our children might "treat religion contemptuously." Well. By the way if closing rum shops on Sunday is oppression, is not the closing of a shoe store option too?

THE DELUSION.

The petition is a deception and delusion because it classes milk and food with "beverages" which being interpreted means rum. The petition was an appeal to ignorant people who are not aware that food and milk can now be sold legally. The nefarious liquor-business cannot succeed if called by its right name, or disassociated with everything else. It cannot stand in its own light. It succeeds by deception and delusion. If the advocates of the liquor business were to go before the public with a candid statement of the real intent of their business, and all the results of its operations, the public would refuse to hear them or tolerate their destructive business.

A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

1. In this issue of the EVANGELIST will be found an article on the Passover by brother David Baily. Our readers will remember the announcement in a former issue that Brother Baily's article would be accompanied by an editorial on the subject and that the discussion would close. At this season of the year we are so exceedingly busy preparing matter for our Sunday-school papers and in getting out and mailing the quarterlies, that very little time is left for editorials requiring careful study and research. The editorial referred to will appear in next issue, and we again announce that the discussion must now close.

2. For three or four weeks the paper has been mailed one day late. This week we are on time again, the paper being mailed Wednesday, the day and date which it bears.

3. *Cheering Words* and *Our Little Folks*, for April 5 and 12, are mailed this week. We are too much crowded to mail all the No's. for April this week. We therefore, mail the No's. for April 5 and 12, this week; the other two No's. will follow. Both *Cheering Words* and

Our Little Folks will reach all subscribers in time for use on April 5. Some schools, however, prefer to have *Our Little Folks*, for distribution, a week before the time when they are needed. A few of these schools, farthest away, may not get this first number one week ahead, but it will be the first number only.

4. All orders for quarterlies up to date have been filled and we await the further pleasure of our customers.

GREATER THAN STATESMEN.

In the *Independent* of a few weeks ago appears an article by Miss Francis E. Willard, president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, from which we take the following: "An ancient nation is being slowly slaughtered at the foot of Mt. Ararat, fifty thousand victims stretched out under God's sky in the slow circle of a year; women, pure, devout, and comely, suffering two deaths—a living and a dying death; little children poised on the bayonets of Moslem soldiers, villages burned, and starvation the common lot.

On the other hand, Christian Europe, with seven millions of soldiers who take their rations and their sacrament regularly; statesmen who kneel on velvet cushions in beautiful cathedrals and pray, "We beseech thee to hear us good Lord." diplomats who can "shape the whisper of a throne" and shade the meaning of an ultimatum; but neither statesman, diplomat, nor soldier has wit, wisdom, or will to save a single life, shelter a single tortured babe, or supply a single loaf of bread to the starving Christians on the Armenian hillside; "vested interests" are against it, "the balance of power" does not permit it, the will of the sultan is the only will in the empire of Turkey, and all the wills of all the Christian nations cannot move it one hair.

The Turk is a savage, while the statesmen are—over-civilized; he is a tyrant, while they are—craven cowards.

Meanwhile, a star moves toward the East; it caught its light from the Star of Bethlehem. One woman, well nigh seventy years of age, takes her life in her hands and goes forward to the rescue; she goes to bind up wounds, to give out bread, to light the fires on blackened hearth-stones, to put hope into broken hearts. She is a greater power to-day for God and brotherhood than all the statesmen, diplomats, and soldiers. The world's eyes follow her with love; they cannot see her plainly for tears.

Did our heavenly Father overrule the wickedness of leaders to put before hu-